



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 28, 1996

Ms. Karen E. Adams and Ms. Doreen E. McGookey
Assistant City Attorney
Criminal Law and Police Division
City of Dallas, City Hall
Dallas, Texas 75201

OR96-0446

Dear Ms. Adams and Ms. McGookey:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your requests were assigned ID#s 38034, 38255, and 38660.

The City of Dallas Police Department (the "department") received two requests for information regarding the source of security alarm calls to the department. Specifically, the first request is for a "list of the fifty (or more, if readily available) locations, with names and addresses (business and/or residential) that were the most frequent source of false alarm calls" for a particular time period, including the number of calls to each location and the date and time of each call. The second request is for "the dates, times, and locations of 55 unanswered alarm calls forwarded to 911 police dispatchers by private security monitors" for a particular time period. With respect to the first request, you have compiled some information, which you have submitted for our review, which you intend to release to the requestor. As for the second request, you have submitted a list that contains the date, time, and location of the alarm calls, which you will release to the second requestor with the locations redacted. You contend that information concerning the location of alarm systems is excepted from required public disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code.

Section 552.101 excepts "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." You contend that section 28(e) of the Private Investigators and Private Security Agencies Act, V.T.C.S. article 4413(29bb), makes the locations of the alarms confidential. Section 28(e) provides:

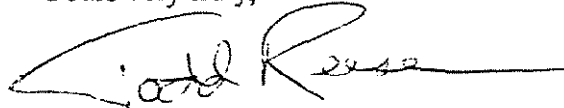
Information that is contained in alarm systems records held by a governmental body and that concerns the location of an alarm

system, the name of the occupant of an alarm system location, or the type of alarm system used is confidential and may be disclosed only to the board or as otherwise required by state law or court order.

However, this section does not apply to a "response to a burglar alarm or detection device by a law enforcement agency or by a law enforcement officer acting in an official capacity." V.T.C.S. art. 4413(29bb), § 3(17) (listing exceptions to Private Investigators and Private Security Agencies Act). Accordingly, you may not withhold the information concerning unanswered alarm calls forwarded to 911 police dispatchers under section 552.101 of the Government Code. As you raise no other exceptions to disclosure, the information must be released.

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Reese", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Todd Reese
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

RTRLBC/ch

Ref: ID# 38034, 38255, 38660

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Tim Dickey
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